



Beverly Mills
Director



BRIAN M. HUGHES
County Executive



Virgen Velez
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Director
Economic Development
& Sustainability

WIB Meeting Minutes ♦ April 28, 2014

WIB Attendance: Mary Gay Abbott-Young (Rescue Mission), Marygrace Billek (MC Human Services), Mary E. Burks (Trenton Public Schools), Frank Cirillo (MCBOSS), Karen Clark (Horizon NJ Health), Scott Clemmensen (Capital Health Systems), Don DiLeo (AFL-CIO), Patricia Donohue (MCCC), Alan Edenzon (retired), Edward Houlihan (Shiseido/Davlyn Industries), Bruce Colligan (RWJ Hamilton), Denalerie Johnson-Faniel (Confidential Consulting, LLC), Shannon Mason (Mercer Street Friends), Connie Mercer (HomeFront), Beverly Mills (WIB), Dennis Micai (TASK), Scott Needham (Princeton Air), James Purcell [Chair], Keith Secrest (Kinectics Industries), Nancy Thomson (Childcare Connection), Liz Tindall (MidJersey Chamber), Virgen Velez (One Stop), Joyce Yon (LWD One Stop), John Raines (One Stop)

Guests: Sheryl Hutchinson (SETC), Dana Hice-Depugh, Vin Samuels (NJ LWD), Lester Shelley (LWD One Stop), Paul Perkins (Hampton Inn, East Windsor), Nina Melker (HVCB), Monica Weaver (MCCC-JKC), Nicole Nicola (MidJersey Chamber), Kendra Lee (One Stop), Lynne Coopersmith (MCCC), Dom DeFino (MCCC), Harry Bittner (MCCC)

Welcome

- Meeting opened by Jim Purcell, WIB Chair
- Round-table introductions were made
- Discussed how this meeting will focus on committee accomplishments since prior meetings have been largely devoted to administrative and recertification issues

Review and Approval of January 28, 2014 Minutes

- No corrections or comments
- 1st motion by Scott Needham; 2nd motion by Scott Clemmensen; motion approved with abstentions from Dennis Micai and Shannon Mason

SETC Update (Sheryl Hutchinson, State Employment & Training Commission)

- Sheryl Hutchinson, SETC liaison with Mercer WIB, congratulated the WIB for being officially certified. The SETC Board voted unanimously to approve 13 out of 17 WIBS at their last meeting at the Law Center in New Brunswick
- Certification has a two year tenure, as per WIA law and SETC policy – the goal is for WIBs to strive for quality and best practices

Youth Investment Committee Update (Nina Melker, Hopewell Valley Community Bank)

- Referenced minutes from the February meeting that were included in the packet and updated on the latest meeting held in April, 2014.
- Plans for the Youth Symposium are already underway and will be held on October 7, 2014 at the MCCC Conference Center.
- There is a strong possibility funding will be available. This year's symposium will bring in freshman and sophomore
- Maurice Coleman, the keynote from last year, has agreed to present again
- The YIC is making in-roads to connect with the business community to accept interns trained through the One Stop. Nina has reached out to a contact regarding an internship in accounting and Bev has for healthcare
- Nina reiterated the importance of offering this opportunity for businesses to connect to the youth and encouraged WIB to be involved

Youth Career Connection (Kendra Lee, One Stop)

- Kendra presented on the One Stop out-of-school youth program entitled Youth Career Connection (YCC) that will consist of three phases
- Geared toward 18-21 years old not currently in a job or educational program; must also have economic and barrier eligibilities
- Phase I will involve orientation, assessment and counseling; Phase II involves the training component and Phase III are the internships and matching up with businesses in which the youth was trained (One Stop will may minimum salary wage to youth). The goal is for the youth to be hired by the company but if not a letter of recommendation.
- Bus passes will be provided to assist with transportation since transportation remains an issue for many

Early Mercer Reads (Monica Weaver, MCCC)

- The 6th Annual Early Mercer Reads was held on April 11, 2014 with 36 participating child care centers from all over the county
- The number of children read to totaled 1,783
- There were 75 volunteer readers from the private sector, various organizations, Mercer County employees, Mercer County Community College, Mercer County Technical School, the Trenton Board of Education as well as the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders

WIB Literacy Committee (Monica Weaver, MCCC)

- GED testing has changed effective January 1, 2014 – the “old” GED is no longer recognized
- MCCC has chosen the TASC test to use; first tests will take place May 10th and 17th and the cost is \$92.00 that will cover all sections
- The current Literacy Consortium is dissolving to form again next year as soon as the NGO comes out from the State. It will be a quick turn-around of about 2-3 weeks; the proposal is due July 1st

Oversight Committee (Keith Secrest, Kinectics Industries, Inc.)

- Vendors met all performance measures in spite of a possible government sequester
- Current performance measures are at 89%; will rise to 90% next year
- Letters went out from the One Stop to all occupational training vendors.
- The State is also working on a warning letter to vendors requiring they report their numbers or be dropped from the Eligible Training Provider List

Business Integration Committee (Scott Clemmensen, Capital Health)

- The purpose of the committee is to look at specific hiring needs of the growth sectors and how that translates to our local economy
- Minimal response from a survey sent out to colleagues in the transportation, hospitality, advanced manufacturing or health sectors

- The sectors have difference hiring issues
- The Transportation/Logistics and Distribution Talent Coordinator discussed opportunities in this sector; students should be made more marketable by requiring a higher level of training beyond what is required for the CDL license
- Hospitality sector does not require “formal” training but soft skills and personality are essential
- Local demand and trends will be identified; the committee will present to our educational partners

Presentation (Dom DeFino & Harry Bittner, MCCC Advanced Technology Program)

- MCCC faculty presented on Programmable Logic Controllers, how it's required in different areas of manufacturing and how manufacturing has dramatically changed in current years through smart technology. Nationally there is a skills gap also fewer in the pipeline to fill in for retirees
- MCCC received a \$60,000 donation for 3D printers as well as \$30,000 for scholarships for students in need of developmental level courses first who want to go into Advanced Manufacturing
- Twelve students to start (hopefully in September); want to run core courses (MET) to start learning measurements, etc. All students start out with machine shop courses and progress
- The WIB will help advertise the program (GED and/or high school diploma required); WIB will also assist with finding women to mentor other females interested in the field

One Stop Services Report (Virgen Velez, One Stop)

- The One Stop has a strong working relationship with in-coming Amazon who plans to hire 1,400 (more during holidays and peak time)
- Amazon has started accepting applications online which is followed by a small assessment
- One Stop has begun hosting informational sessions to review application “dos and don'ts”
- Greater Mercer Transportation Authority is working with NJ Transit to coordinate with the Route 130 shuttle as well as NJ transit buses to connect with Amazon shifts
- Steady improvement in outcomes from positive recruitments; 22 positive recruitments in PY 13 with 263 served and 110 hired (42%)
- 31 proposals were received (17 TANF and 14 GA); One Stop is finalizing the review and evaluation of these proposals so the program can start July 1st
- Youth working at Great Adventure this summer will have transportation (provided by County)

Election of WIB Chair and Vice Chair:

- WIB Bylaws state that nominations for Chair and Vice Chair be presented at the January quarterly meeting however if no nominations are made, a 2/3 majority vote rules at the April meeting.
- Vote carried that Jim Purcell remain as Chair for another two year term and Monica McKee as Vice Chair for an additional two years

Announcements

- Mary Burks praised the One Stop and Shiseido for their support of Trenton High's Career Day that took place in April; the career fair was for four days and featured speakers
- Joyce Yon mentioned “Hire our Heroes” scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2014 geared toward veterans but is open to the public

Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: July 22, 2014